Support of UN Resolution on Iran

*137. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government supported in September 2005, the resolution to restrict nuclear programmes of Iran;

(b) if so, the details of the resolution, including its sponsors and other member countries who voted for and against the said resolution and those abstained from voting;

(c) the rationale behind the stand taken by India;

(d) whether stand of Government is undergoing revision; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (e) The IAEA Board of Governors has been discussing the issue of Iran's nuclear programme, its compliance with its Treaty obligations and its Safeguard Agreement with the IAEA for more than two years. Iran had in an agreement with the EU-3 (France, Germany, UK) in November 2004 agreed to suspend on a voluntary basis all enrichment related and reprocessing activities. On 1 August 2005, Iran gave a notification that it would resume uranium conversion activities at the Uranium Conversion Facility (UCF) at Isfahan. The IAEA Board of Governors adopted a resolution by consensus on 11 August 2005 which *inter-alia* urged Iran to re-establish full suspension of all activities at the UCF.

The matter was discussed at the IAEA Board of Governors meeting held from September 19-24, 2005. EU-3 moved a resolution on the issue, which *inter-alia* found Iran in non-compliance with its safeguards obligations and urged Iran to implement the necessary confidence building and transparency measures including suspension of all enrichment related activity. It did not include a referral of the matter to the UNSC but requested DG, IAEA to continue his efforts to implement the resolutions on Iran and to report again to the Board.

Twenty two States voted in favour of the resolution which was adopted by the IAEA Board. These were Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Ecuador, France, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Slovenia,

Sweden, UK, and USA. Twelve states abstained namely Algeria, Brazil, China, Mexico, Algeria, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russia, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Tunisia, Vietnam and Yemen. Venezuela voted against the resolution.

India voted in favour of the resolution since the resolution took account of our concern against not referring the matter to the UN Security Council and providing more time for negotiations. India's vote was in keeping with our consistent stance that more time should be given for resolution of the issue through negotiations within the framework of the IAEA.

The consistent approach of the Government has been that this matter should be resolved in the IAEA, and to this end has maintained regular communication with all parties concerned. The issue was discussed at the IAEA Board meeting on 24 November 2005. The Board reiterated its support for the resumption of negotiations between Iran and EU-3. No resolution was presented to the Board.

The Indian statement noted stated that Iran had been more forthcoming in providing additional access to the IAEA since September 2005 Board meeting. The present situation offered vital diplomatic space, which confirmed India's position that this matter should be resolved within the IAEA and that enough time and cooperation should be given to the IAEA to complete its work.

Constitution of Information Commission

*138. DR. M. A. M. RAMASWAMY:
SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have constituted the Information Commission under the Right to Information Act;

(b) if so, the constitution of the Information Commission;

(c) the terms and conditions of this Commission;

(d) the qualification, tenure and responsibilities of such Commission;

(e) whether all the Central Government Ministries and Departments have appointed Information Officers as stipulated under the RTI Act;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor and the details of such Ministries/